



COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Colchester, CT

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 7, 2021
BOE Budget Committee Meeting 9:00AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose
ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, CFO Maggie Cosgrove,
Director of Educational Operations Mario Hurtado
OTHERS PRESENT: BOE Chair Mary Tomasi, BOE Member Amy Domeika, Executive
Assistant to the Superintendent Amy Trinnaman

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Morozowich called the meeting to order at 9:03AM.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

3.1 Public Comment

None.

4. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Approval of December 3, 2020 Minutes

Motion by: J. Rose

To approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 Budget Committee meeting.

Second by: J. Morozowich

Vote: Unanimous

Roll call: J. Rose, J. Morozowich

5. *PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

None.

6. BUDGET REPORTS

6.1 Monthly Budget Reports

CFO Cosgrove reviewed the budget report for December 2020. Of note under Employee Benefits is a late notification of a retirement at the end of last school year that was not budgeted for in the total. Discussion ensued on line items that are still under development, and budget lines that are dependent on weather.

6.2 Cafeteria Fund

CFO Cosgrove presented the Cafeteria Fund for December 2020. The cumulative loss in this program due to COVID-19 is \$43,984. All breakfasts and lunches are free at this time, which contributes to a growing deficit.

6.3 Health Insurance Reserve

While claims are down due to pandemic, budget projections based on claims this year will be challenging for 2021-2022.

6.4 Special Education Excess Cost Report

An increase in the number of outplaced students and students receiving special education services has contributed to a deficit of approximately \$100,000. An additional deficit of \$75,000 is for increased transportation costs. At this time, we expect that the excess cost reimbursement will cover the increased costs.

6.5 Use of Schools (Not at this time)

6.6 Capital Reserve (Not at this time)

6.7 Budget Transfers Under \$5,000

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. *NEW BUSINESS

8.1 2021-22 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Burt discussed the importance of maintaining the necessary staffing levels to prioritize the educational needs of our students. Additional priorities are the capital improvement and maintenance projects that keep our buildings in good working condition. Salaries and benefits are a substantial part of our budget, and are driven by contractual obligations. In an atypical year, presenting a 0% increase in the budget would make it very difficult to maintain these priorities. Superintendent Burt explained that deferring maintenance can ultimately result in larger costs over time.

8.2 JJIS Gutter/Snow Guard Discussion

There is an urgent need to complete the installation of a snow retention system for JJIS's metal roof. Damaged or nonexistent gutters must be addressed to mitigate the risk of personal injury and financial exposure due to property damage. An expenditure of \$64,150 will be necessary to resolve.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW ISSUES RAISED OR SUBJECTS DEVELOPED

9.1 Public Comment

None.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:21AM.